

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Happy Spring everyone! We survived another Minnesota winter and it's great to see so many people out and about walking around on our trails already. It's also great to learn that so many people are being vaccinated for COVID-19 and that our restaurants can operate at 75% of their indoor capacity. It looks like we are heading in the right direction and I am thankful for that.

I recently filmed a 2021 State of the City Address that I encourage you to view as I recapped what occurred in Long Lake in 2020 and what is on the horizon for 2021 and beyond. The video of the address is available via a link on our city website, is posted on Facebook, and was sent out via our Listserv.

Each year members of the Park Board, Planning Commission, City Council as well as city staff assemble a list of goals for the city to accomplish in both the near and long-term. I encourage you to take a look at them on our website under "Long Lake City Goals" so you have a sense of what they are.

Something to keep an eye out for in the coming months is the beginning of construction for Zvago Long Lake, which will be located next to the Lake Community Bank. Zvago Long Lake is a 57-unit cooperative community for residents aged 62 and older. The pre-sale of units is now underway and construction is expected to begin this summer with an anticipated occupancy of summer 2022. Feel free to visit their website for more information:

<https://zvagoliving.com/community/zvago-long-lake/>

Finally, I would like to bring to your attention a situation on the horizon involving our Long Lake Fire Department, which has been serving our city and several surrounding communities since 1915. We currently provide fire protection services to the cities of Orono, Medina, and Minnetonka Beach. However, Orono has recently notified us that they plan on passing a resolution terminating the contract for joint ownership of Fire Station 1, which is currently owned 50/50 by Long Lake and Orono, effective December 31, 2025. In addition, their mayor has indicated that they wish to create and operate their own fire department. It's not yet clear where they will recruit their firefighters from or which city, if any, will operate a fire department out of Station 1 after 2025, but I wanted to let our residents know about this situation.

Unrelated to our discussions with Orono, we have also been meeting regularly with the State Fire Marshal's Office and other area cities to discuss the future of fire protection services in our area and whether we may benefit from partnerships with other area cities. The State Fire Marshal's Office has stated there are too many separately operated fire departments in Minnesota and that there should be more consolidation to utilize personnel and resources better. Stay tuned for more information on this important topic.

*Charlie Miner, Mayor*



## PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATING DON "BEAN" GASPAR'S RETIREMENT

Don "Bean" Gaspar is officially retiring after 45 years and 7 months of service to the City of Long Lake as a valued member of its Public Works Department. Don began his employment on October 1, 1975 and will be retiring effective April 30,

2021. His commitment to the community and his contributions to Long Lake's infrastructure and parks over these many years will leave lasting marks on the City and in many of our hearts. Those who've known him will sincerely miss his great humor, booming voice, and his dedication to giving his best to every aspect of his duties. We'll be holding a public gathering at the Long Lake Public Works building (2145 Daniels Street) on Thursday, April 29 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Everyone is invited to stop by and wish Don well!



## SPRING LEAF PICKUP DATES

City licensed refuse haulers annually provide spring and fall curbside leaf pickup dates at no cost to residents. Your refuse hauler will pick up leaves and yard waste on **Tuesday, April 20** and **Tuesday, April 27** - if your pickup is missed, please contact your garbage hauler. Residents are encouraged to set out

their bagged leaves (no brush) early in the morning on those days. **Leaves must be bagged in compostable bags only, no other bags may be accepted.** Most hardware and home improvement stores carry compostable bags. Raking leaves, keeping leaves away from driveways, streets and sidewalks, and disposing of leaves properly keeps them out of storm drains and water bodies, where they release phosphorus and other unwanted nutrients. Thank you for doing so, as this helps protect the health of our lake and streams! As a reminder, city ordinance prohibits the burning of leaves or grass clippings; and it is a violation of city ordinance to put leaves from your yard into the street.

## SPRING CLEANUP DAY EVENT ON SATURDAY, APRIL 24

The annual Spring Cleanup Day for disposal of appliances, miscellaneous household items, e-waste recycling, and construction debris is currently scheduled to be held at the neighboring City of Orono Public Works Facility (2700 Kelley Parkway) on Saturday, April 24 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Long Lake residents are welcome to participate, but must bring ID providing proof of Long Lake residency (MN driver's license or ID card). For a complete list of acceptable items and event information, please see the [Spring Cleanup Day flier](#) posted on the City's website at [www.longlakemn.gov](http://www.longlakemn.gov), or contact City Hall staff to request a copy be sent to you.



## CHECK TO BE SURE YOUR SUMP PUMP IS CONNECTED PROPERLY

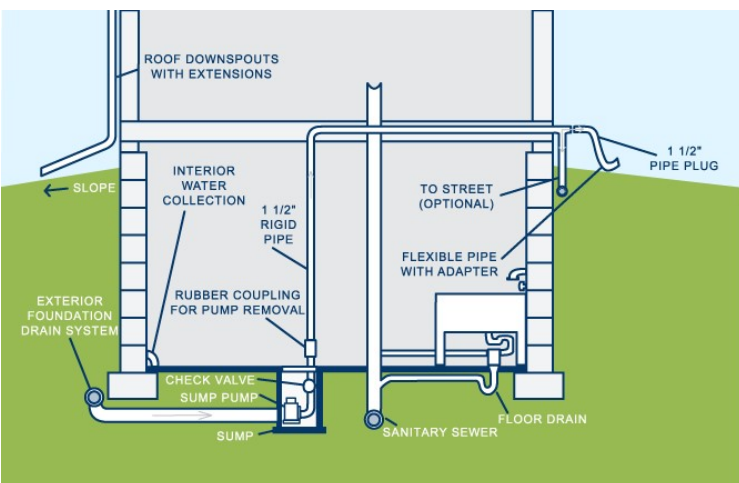
Sump pump systems are designed to capture surface or ground water that enters basements or crawl spaces and pump it away from the house. Cross connections (when sump pumps discharge into the sanitary sewer system) are against City ordinance and pose economic and environmental problems.

When a sump pump is connected to a sanitary sewer line, it is called a cross connection. Often, this is a hose leading from the sump to a laundry tub or a floor drain. Water that goes down any drain in your house leads to the sanitary sewer system and eventually ends up at a wastewater treatment plant, where it is treated before being released back into the environment. Cross connections are a significant cause of inflow and infiltration and must be fixed.

Sump pump water is what engineers call "clear water," most often rain water, ground water, or snow melt. Water from sinks, showers, tubs, toilets, and washing machines is **wastewater** and must be treated before it is discharged into the environment. **Clear water, such as that from a sump pump, overloads the sanitary sewer system.** A sump pump can discharge as much water during rainfall events as 40 homes on a typical day. Excessive flow from improperly connected sump pumps can cause sewer backups into homes and create the potential for sewage overflows into wetlands, lakes and streams. It also is costly. Wastewater systems are designed to handle peak capacity. The more clear water entering the system, the bigger all those facilities need to be and the more they cost. Reducing the peak flow caused by excessive inflow and infiltration means communities spend less on larger pipes and treatment plants. Metropolitan Council collects fees from communities to pay for treatment of the Twin Cities region's wastewater. Reducing inflow and infiltration ultimately reduces utility costs communities must charge to their service accounts. Sewer rates charged by cities are reflective of the costs incurred to treat wastewater, and cities with higher inflow and infiltration rates pay more for wastewater treatment.

Sump pumps should drain into the City's storm sewer system through one of two methods:

- a direct connection (a pipe from the house to the main storm sewer line), if available
- directly onto the ground (preferably 20 feet from the house and not into a neighbor's yard)



## HAVING ISSUES WITH MEDIACOM? THE LAKE MINNETONKA COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION CAN HELP!

Did you know the Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission (LMCC) can advocate for you with Mediacom? If you, or someone you know, is having problems with Mediacom, you can contact LMCC Operations Manager Jim Lundberg. He can help you find resolution on these issues. Please feel free to contact Jim by emailing [jim@lmcc-tv.org](mailto:jim@lmcc-tv.org).

## PARK BOARD POSITION OPENING

We currently have an opening for a Long Lake resident to serve on the Park Board. The City's Park Board makes recommendations to the City Council on park facilities, trails, and recreation opportunities. Interested in getting involved? Email Jeanette at [jmoeller@longlakemn.gov](mailto:jmoeller@longlakemn.gov) for a Boards and Commissions application form, or call 952.473.6961 x1.

## ANNUAL LONG LAKE FIRE PANCAKE BREAKFAST - DATE TO BE DETERMINED

The Long Lake Fire Relief Association has decided to postpone the 2021 Pancake Breakfast until later in the year. Please stay tuned for more information.



## HYDRANT FLUSHING

The City Public Works Department will be flushing hydrants the week of April 19 through April 23, weather permitting. You may notice discoloration and rust particles in your water during this process. If you notice discoloration, letting your faucet run for a short time should clear your water lines. Wait to wash light clothing until you notice the water has cleared. Should you have any questions, please call Public Works at 952.476.2855.

## CITY STAFF

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## ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

For additional contact information, resources, and City news, please visit the City of Long Lake website at [www.longlakemn.gov](http://www.longlakemn.gov).